

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124719
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O 162135Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USNATO
CIA WASHDC 0000
USICA WASHDC
DOD
NSA
XMT AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 124719

AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS STATE 124719

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 16, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q. ZAIRE

A. LET ME SAY FIRST THAT WE ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED AT THIS RENEWAL OF CONFLICT IN THE SHABA AREA. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, IT'S CLEARLY CONTRARY TO ALL PRINCIPLES OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY -- PRINCIPLES SO STRONGLY ENDORSED BY THE AFRICAN STATES THEMSELVES AS WELL, OF COURSE, BY THE UNITED STATES. AS YOU KNOW, OUR FIRST CONCERN IS THE WELFARE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE GENERAL AREA WHERE THE FIGHTING HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 73 AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE KOLWEZI AREA. SIXTY-TWO ARE EMPLOYEES OF MORRISON-UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 124719

KNUDSEN, NINE ARE MISSIONARIES. ONE WORKS FOR THE COPPER CONSORTIUM GECAMINES -- AND ONE IS A TOURIST. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, DESPITE PRESS REPORTS, THERE HAVE BEEN NO AMERICANS ROUNDED UP BY THE INVADERS. FIFTY-NINE OF THE MORRISON-KNUDSEN EMPLOYEES ARE AT A BASE CAMP NINE MILES NORTHWEST OF KOLWEZI. FOURTEEN OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE KNOWN TO BE IN THE IMMEDIATE KOLWEZI AREA. OUR INFORMATION CONTINUES THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CHILD I MENTIONED YESTERDAY, ALL ARE UNINJURED. I HAVE NOTED THAT THE INVADERS MIGHT BE HOLDING SOME EUROPEANS AS HOSTAGES. I SIMPLY HAVE NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THAT. BUT I HAVE TO STRESS HERE, THAT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SPEAK WITH CERTAINTY ABOUT THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND. INsofar AS THE MILITARY SITUATION GOES, THAT SAME GENERAL CAVEAT APPLIES. THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE HAS INFORMED US THAT IT MOVED AGAINST KOLWEZI THIS MORNING USING PARATROOPS, AND THE ZAIRE NEWS AGENCY OFFERED INFORMATION TO THIS EFFECT. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO BE ABLE TO OFFER CONFIRMATION ON THAT, BUT WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT A PARATROOP OPERATION DID IN FACT TAKE PLACE. ON THE QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE, WE ARE STILL IN THE POSITION

WE WERE YESTERDAY. WE HAVE NO NEW SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE, ONLY THE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED GENERAL APPEAL RECEIVED YESTERDAY. WE HAVE HAD CONVERSATION WITH ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS, BUT AGAIN I REPEAT THERE IS NO SPECIFIC SET OF REQUESTS. SHOULD WE RECEIVE SPECIFIC REQUEST, WE WOULD OF COURSE GIVE IF OUR URGENT CONSIDERATION. IN THE MEANTIME, ZAIRE HAS ASKED US TO ACCELERATE THE MATERIAL THAT WE HAVE IN THE PIPELINE OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES EQUIPMENT, AND WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO COMPLY WITH THIS BY SPEEDING UP DELIVERY OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, C-130 SPARE PARTS AND SPARE PARTS FOR CESSNA 310. THIS EQUIPMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN ORDERED UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR '77 FMS PROGRAM. THE FISCAL '77 LEVEL ON MILITARY SALES CREDITS IS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 124719

17.5 MILLION.

Q. HAVE YOU GOT ANY KIND OF SUMMARY OF WHATEVER EQUIP- UNDER FMS OR OTHER PROGRAMS HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THIS COUNTRY TO ZAIRE SINCE THE SHABA INVASION?

A. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. ALSO ON THE AID QUESTION, CONGRESSMAN RHODES IS BEING QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE PRESIDENT, AT THE BREAKFAST MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS THIS MORNING, WAS EXPRESSING FRUSTRATION ABOUT INABILITY TO SEND TO ZAIRE AS MUCH EQUIPMENT AS HE WOULD LIKE. AND RHODES REFERRED TO RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. AID AUTHORITY, WHICH I'M NOT SPECIFICALLY FAMILIAR WITH -- I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT. THE UNITED STATES CANNOT SEND AID TO A COUNTRY THAT'S IN ARREARS IN ITS AID PAYMENTS, IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I'M REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO DEAL WITH IT NOR,

UNFORTUNATELY, AM I IN A POSITION TO TELL YOU WHAT THE RESTRICTIONS ARE OF THE SORT THAT WERE MENTIONED BY THE CONGRESSMAN.

Q. THE INFORMATION SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE BETTER THIS YEAR THAN LAST BUT NOT MUCH. I WONDER IF YOU COULD TELL US WHERE THE INFORMATION WE'RE GETTING NOW ABOUT AMERICAN CITIZENS IS COMING FROM? IS IT STILL FROM THE MISSIONARY RADIOS OR DO WE --

A. WELL, ACTUALLY, IN THIS CASE, SINCE SO MANY OF THEM ARE EMPLOYEES OF THAT PARTICULAR FIRM, I THINK A GREAT DEAL OF IT COMES FROM THE FIRM ITSELF.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 124719

Q. BUT WE STILL HAVE NO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT PRESENCE, OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL, IN THAT PART OF ZAIRE, I TAKE IT.

A. I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE HAVE DOWN THERE. I'VE GIVEN YOU THE NUMBERS. I COULDN'T SPEAK TO THAT BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING THERE ON THE SIZE OF THE U.S. MILITARY AID MISSION TO ZAIRE?

A. NO.

Q. ALSO, THESE PARATROOPS THAT ARE REPORTEDLY BEING DROPPED AROUND KOLWEZI -- ARE THEY AMERICAN-TRAINED OR ISRAELI TRAINED?

A. I'LL TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. HDING, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER WE'RE INTO CONSULTATIONS THIS TIME AS WE WERE LAST TIME WITH THE FRENCH, BELGIANS, MOROCCANS AND EGYPTIANS? ON THE ZAIRE QUESTION.

A. WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE BELGIANS AND THE FRENCH OUR MUTUAL CONCERN ABOUT OUR NATIONALS THERE, AND OBVIOUSLY THAT ENTAILS A DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND. BEYOND THAT, I DON'T THINK THAT WE HAVE ANY PLANNING UNDER WAY BECAUSE, FRANKLY, THE SITUATION IS NOT CLEAR ENOUGH LEADING TO ACTION A, B OR C.

Q. ANY THOUGHT OF SENDING AMERICAN FORCES IN TO HELP RESCUE THE FOREIGNERS?

A. AGAIN, I JUST SIMPLY KNOW OF NO PLANNING FOR THAT; BUT IT IS WAY EARLY TO BE TALKING IN ANY TERMS ABOUT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 124719

EVACUATION. THE SITUATION JUST ISN'T CLEAR ENOUGH FOR US TO GO FORWARD WITH ANYTHING ON THIS.

Q. -- YOU'VE STATED SEVERAL TIMES IN PAST MONTHS IN ANOTHER CONTEXT THAT THE UNITED STATES OPPOSES THE IN-TRUSION OF EXTRA-CONTINENTAL TROOPS INTO AN AFRICAN DIS-

PUTE IN THE CONTEXT OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES. WOULD IT BE THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY TO OPPOSE THAT TYPE OF INVOLVEMENT BY ANY EXTRA-CONTINENTAL TROOPS, PARTICULARLY FRENCH TROOPS IN THIS PARTICULAR DISPUTE ON THE SIDE OF ZAIRE?

A. WELL, AGAIN, THAT'S A VERY SPECULATIVE QUESTION. WHAT OUR POSITION IS, ALWAYS: FIRST, THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF EACH NATION SHOULD BE RESPECTED AND THAT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IN DISPUTES THE BEST SOLUTION TO THEM LIES WITH THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES. YOUR QUESTION DOESN'T ARISE.

Q. WOULD THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDER, PROVIDING LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT?

A. I'M NOT ABLE TO TELL YOU WHAT -- WE WILL CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS. I'M NOT ABLE TO GO FURTHER THAN THAT.

Q. THERE ARE REPORTS FROM PARIS AND BRUSSELS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, THAT KOLWEZI HAS BEEN CAPTURED ENTIRELY BY THE REBELS. I'M JUST WONDERING. AS OF YESTERDAY YOU SAID IT WAS PARTLY HELD BY THE REBELS. CAN YOU UPDATE THAT?

A. LET ME SEE. I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE VERY GOOD SITREPS
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 124719

FOR YOU. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME FROM OUR REPORTS WHAT THE ACTUAL SITUATION IS THERE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON MUTSHASHA?

A. AGAIN, NO. I AM NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM ANYTHING EXCEPT THAT THERE HAS BEEN FIGHTING IN THAT AREA.

Q. NOW, THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS THAT AMERICANS ARE IN THE REBEL-HELD PART OF KOLWEZI, THAT THEY INCLUDE THE MISSIONARIES -- AID MISSIONARIES.

A. THE MISSIONARIES ARE IN THE KOLWEZI AREA. I THINK THAT IT CAN BE SAID THAT THEY ARE IN EITHER A CONTESTED AREA OR AREAS WHICH MAY BE REBEL-HELD.

Q. AND DO YOU ALSO KNOW ABOUT OTHER AMERICANS, BECAUSE

THE REPORT I'VE SEEN SAYS THAT 14 TO 15 AMERICANS, INCLUDING THE MISSIONARIES, ARE IN AREAS HELD BY THE REBELS?

A. NO. I AM NOT ABLE TO SAY THAT THEY'RE IN REBEL-
HELD TERRITORY FOR A FACT. I CAN ONLY SAY THAT IT IS IN
A CONTESTED AREA.

Q. AND DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A PLAN TO EVACUATE
THESE PEOPLE USING DC-3 AIRCRAFT FROM KOLWEZI?

A. I AM, FOR SOMEFAIRLYOBVIOUS REASONS, NOT GOING TO
COMMENT ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING REGARDING AMERICAN
CITIZENS. I CAN SAY THE OBVIOUS: YOU CAN ASSUME THAT
SUCH PLANNING IS GOING ON.

Q. I MEAN IS IT NOW A POINT OF DECISION OR COULD
A DECISION BE TAKEN IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS OR IS IT SOME-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 124719

THING IN THE DISTANT FUTURE?

A. WELL, AGAIN, WHAT OUR PLAN OF ACTION WOULD BE WOULD
DEPEND ON THE SITUATION, INCLUDING WHETHER EVACUATION
IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY; AND THAT'S DETERMINED, AGAIN,
BY WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE GROUND AND THAT'S CHANG-
ING. I MEAN I JUST TOLD YOU THERE WAS A PARACHUTE DROP.
THE SITUATION IS FLUID.

Q. IS THE AIRPORT AT KOLWEZI STILL CLOSED OR IN REBEL
HANDS?

A. AGAIN, THE SITUATION IS, AS OF THIS LAST THING I
HAVE, SO FLUID THAT I'M UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHAT IS IN
FACT PHYSICALLY HELD, WHAT IS BEING CONTESTED, WHAT
THE STATUS OF THE AIRPORT IS RIGHT NOW.

Q. THERE WERE SOME REPORTS THAT SOME EUROPEANS WHO ARE
IN THE KOLWEZI AREA HAD BEEN KILLED. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT THAT?

A. I HAVE NO INFORMATION IN FRONT OF ME ON THAT, BUT
I HAVE TO STRESS THAT OUR INFORMATION IS SUCH THAT I'M
NOT IN A POSITION TO SPEAK WITH CERTAINTY ON THAT QUES-
TION IN PARTICULAR.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE INVOLVEMENT OR NON-INVOLVE-
MENT OF THE CUBANS IN THIS INVASION?

A. I HAVE NO INFORMATION TO SUBSTANTIATE CUBAN PRESENCE
IN THE INVADING FORCE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT CUBAN TRAINING
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 124719

OF THESE FORCES?

A. LET ME SAY TO THAT GENERAL QUESTION WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF CUBANS FIGHTING OR ADVISING THE INVADERS. WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS AND ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEM. IN ANGOLA ITSELF, WE HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION ON RECENT TRAINING OF KATANGANS BY CUBANS. IT HAS BEEN OUR ASSUMPTION THAT CUBANS HAVE PROVIDED TRAINING AT KATANGA BASES IN ANGOLA AT THE TIME OF THE LAST SHABA INVASION AND SINCE -- WHICH IS THE BEST THAT I CAN DO ON THAT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE ORIGIN OF THE EQUIPMENT THE INVADERS ARE USING?

A. NO, I DON'T, BECAUSE I'M NOT SURE THAT WE HAVE A FIX PRECISELY WHAT EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED. BUT THE EQUIPMENT IS DERIVED FROM BASES IN ANGOLA, WHATEVER IT MAY BE.

Q. WHAT BASIS DO YOU HAVE FOR ASSUMING THAT THE CUBANS WERE INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING OF THE KATANGANS IN ANGOLA?

A. INFORMATION THAT WE HAVE.

Q. DO YOU KNOW THE VALUE OF THE EQUIPMENT THAT HAS BEEN SPED UP TO ZAIRE?

A. NO. I HOPE THAT I CAN GIVE YOU A VALUE OF WHAT'S ALREADY GONE FORWARD UNDER FISCAL YEAR FY 77 AND ALSO WHAT IS BEING SPED UP NOW.

Q. IS THERE A SHIPMENT OR HAS IT ALREADY LEFT FOR ZAIRE?

A. I DON'T THINK IT HAS. I THINK THE LANGUAGE IS THAT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 124719

WE ARE SPEEDING UP THE EFFORTS TO MOVE THAT FORWARD THROUGH THE PIPELINE.

Q. AND IF THERE IS ONE, COULD YOU LET US KNOW IF THERE IS A SPECIAL PLANELOAD GOING OVER AT SOME POINT.

A. YES. AS INFORMATION ARISES, I'LL TRY TO PUT IT OUT.

Q. AT THE WHITE HOUSE THERE WAS A QUESTION ABOUT REPORTS THAT DR. BRZEZINSKI -- A PART OF HIS AGENDA IS TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE CHINESE TO INTERVENE HEAVILY AGAINST THE CUBANS IN AFRICA. IS THERE ANY SUCH DISCUSSION THAT YOU

KNOW ABOUT?

A. THEY OBVIOUSLY WILL BE TALKING ABOUT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE SITUATION IN AFRICA, BUT THEY'RE GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT A NUMBER OF GLOBAL PROBLEMS.

Q. I WANT TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS QUESTION. ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY CHINESE OFFER TO SEND VOLUNTEERS INTO ZAIRE OR ANY OTHER AREA?

A. NO I AM NOT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE ON THE EXTENT OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF CUBANS? AND DO YOU KNOW OF ANY APPARENT OFFENSIVE IN ERITREA?

A. DESPITE STORIES ABOUT THE INVASION -- THERE ARE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF INVASION -- THEREFORE, WHILE WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THESE REPORTS, IT DOES APPEAR FROM STATEMENTS BY BOTH THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 11 STATE 124719

AND THE ERITREAN MOVEMENTS THAT MAJOR NEW FIGHTING IS NOW IN PROGRESS. WE HAVE BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME OF A MASSIVE ETHIOPIAN BUILDUP IN ERITREA, SO THE NEWS COMES AS NO SURPRISE.

IN THIS CONTEXT, WE HAVE ALSO BEEN AWARE OF THE PRESENCE IN ERITREA OF CUBAN ADVISORY PERSONNEL. WE HAVE AS YET NO CONFIRMATION THAT CUBAN PERSONNEL ARE PARTICIPATING DIRECTLY IN THE OFFENSIVE, ALTHOUGH THEIR PRESENCE WAS MENTIONED IN THE ETHIOPIAN STATEMENT ANNOUNCING THE OFFENSIVE.

Q. APROPOS OF THAT ANNOUNCEMENT, THE ETHIOPIANS ALSO SAID EAST GERMANS, THE SOVIETS, AND THE SOUTH YEMEN. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING--?

A. UNFORTUNATELY I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION BEHIND THAT RHETORIC ON SOME OF THE OTHER PERSONNEL YOU MENTIONED.

Q. YOU SAID SOME WEEKS AGO ABOUT POSSIBLY CUBAN PILOTS FLYING COMBAT MISSIONS. IS THAT TRUE?

A. THAT WAS TRUE. I AM NOT SURE IN THE CURRENT OFFENSIVE. I THINK IT IS FAR TOO EARLY FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT. WE HAVE STATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT WE DID NOT BELIEVE THE INVOLVEMENT OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES IN THIS SORT OF INTERNAL CONFLICT IS APPROPRIATE.

IT IS CONTRARY TO THE AFRICAN PRINCIPLE THAT REGIONAL PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SOLVED BY AFRICANS THEMSELVES.

IT TEMPTS GOVERNMENTS TO SEEK MILITARY SOLUTIONS TO WHAT ARE ULTIMATELY POLITICAL PROBLEMS, WHICH CAN ONLY BE FULLY RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT INVOLVEMENT IS POTENTIALLY A HIGHLY DESTABILIZING INFLUENCE IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 12 STATE 124719

REGION AS A WHOLE.

I WOULD ADD THAT WE ALSO QUESTION WHETHER CUBAN INVOLVE-

MENT IN SUCH SITUATIONS IN CLOSE CONCERT WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS CONSISTENT WITH CUBA'S PROFESSED NON-ALIGNMENT.

I HAVE POSTED THE FOLLOWING, BUT I WANT TO REPEAT IT OR PARAPHRASE WHAT I HAVE ALREADY POSTED.

OUR OWN VIEW IS THAT THE ERITREAN CONFLICT, WHICH IS OF LONGSTANDING, CAN ONLY BE TRULY RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

WE DEPLORE THE CONTINUING SERIOUS BLOODSHED. WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANY SOLUTION MUTUALLY AGREED TO BY THE ETHIOPIANS AND THE ERITREANS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THERE WAS A UN SPONSORED FEDERATION PLAN OF 1950 WHICH WAS INSTITUTED IN ERITREA IN 1952 AND TERMINATED BY THE PREVIOUS ETHIOPIAN REGIME IN 1962.

Q. WHY ARE YOU PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANY SOLUTION? ON WHAT BASIS DO WE ACCEPT OR REJECT INTERNAL SOLUTIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES?

A. WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANY KIND OF SOLUTION WHICH IS NOT ONE IMPOSED BY OUTSIDE MILITARY FORCES. THAT IS THE POINT OF THIS STATEMENT. IT IS NOT THAT WE HAVE A VETO OVER WHAT IS DONE INSIDE ANOTHER COUNTRY. IT IS IN CONTRAST TO THE ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE IT BY A MILITARY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 13 STATE 124719

SOLUTION, WITH THE USE OF OUTSIDE FORCES.

Q. THE LANGUAGE IMPLIES THAT THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS TO MEASURE UP TO OUR STANDARDS.

A. NO. I AM CONTRASTING THAT TO WHAT WE FIND UNACCEPTABLE WHICH IS A MILITARILY IMPOSED SOLUTION.

Q. ARE YOU ENDORSING THE ARRANGEMENT THAT THE UN MADE IN 1952 AS THE PROPER WAY TO SETTLE THIS CONFLICT?

A. NO. WHAT I AM NOTING IS THAT THAT WAS A SOLUTION WHICH WAS FOLLOWED, AND IT WAS BUILT ON THE NOTION OF A NEGOTIATED FEDERATION. WE ARE RAISING THESE QUESTIONS, AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, AND ARE CONTINUING TO RAISE, WITH A NUMBER OF STATES, IN WHICH WE MADE OUR FEELINGS CLEAR ON THE SUBJECT BOTH OF THE EXTERNAL FORCES THAT ARE IN PLAY THERE. WE ALSO MADE CLEAR OUR FEELING ABOUT WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID ABOUT THE STATUS OF A NON-ALIGNED

NATION IN--QUOTATION MARKS -- BEING INVOLVED WITH A MAJOR POWER IN THIS PARTICULAR EXERCISE.

Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT, AGAIN, IT SEEMS TO ME WHEN YOU MAKE IT CLEAR AND YOU RAISE IT, YOU DO IT RHETORICALLY. HAVE YOU DONE ANYTHING DIPLOMATICALLY?

A. CLEARLY ONE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH YOU RAISE THINGS RHETORICALLY IS TO ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE AND PERSUADE OTHERS THAT YOUR VIEWPOINT IS WORTH THEIR SUPPORT.

Q. WE NOW HAVE SOVIET ALLIES HAVING LAUNCHED IMPORTANT DESTABILIZING ATTACKS ON BOTH SIDES OF AFRICA.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO VIS-A-VIS THE RUSSIANS IN AN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THEM TO STOP THESE ACTIONS?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 14 STATE 124719

A. WE HAVEN'T CEASED ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE THEM.

Q. WELL, ARE WE GOING TO RECEIVE GROMYKO WITH OPEN ARMS OR NOT?

A. ARE WE GOING TO NEGOTIATE ON THE SALT AGREEMENT?

WE ARE GOING TO NEGOTIATE ON THE SALT AGREEMENT.

ARE WE GOING TO IN EFFECT PRETEND THAT THIS ISN'T GOING ON? NO.

Q. DOES THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER THAT A CIVIL WAR?

A. WE CONSIDER IT TO BE AN INTERNAL CONFLICT.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES PREPARED TO TAKE ANY SPECIFIC ACTION OTHER THAN JUST RAISING QUESTIONS DIPLOMATICALLY, WHICH WE HAVE BEEN DOING FOR MONTHS, AND IT HASN'T CHANGED ANYTHING IN AFRICA?

A. LET ME REPEAT THAT I THINK YOU KNOW CLEARLY WHAT THE OPTIONS ARE. WE ARE STUDYING THE SITUATION, CONTINUING TO STUDY, AS TO WHAT WE CAN DO TO EFFECT A REMOVAL OF THESE TROOPS. I WOULD SUGGEST TO YOU THAT THERE ARE SOME FAIRLY LIMITED POSSIBILITIES.

Q. YOU HAVEN'T REALLY ESTABLISHED THAT THOSE CUBAN TROOPS ARE INVOLVED IN THE ERITREAN FIGHTING.

A. I HAVE SAID I AM NOT ABLE TO ESTABLISH THAT THEY ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE OFFENSIVE IN A COMBAT ROLE, BUT

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 15 STATE 124719

THAT WE IN FACT DO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE CUBANS THERE IN ERITREA.

Q. IN THE OGADEN SITUATION, THE UNITED STATES CONSISTENTLY SAID THAT WHILE IT DIDN'T LIKE THE CUBANS AND RUSSIANS THERE, IT RECOGNIZED ETHIOPIA'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE AREA.

DOES THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZE ETHIOPIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER ERITREA?

A.I POSTED AN ANSWER AS TO OUR EXACT POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF ERITREA AND ETHIOPIA. VANCE

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